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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/626,347

07/26/2000

Albert Henricus Franciscus de Heer

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07/24/2006

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EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/626,347

Applicant(s)

DE HEER ET AL.

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communication: RCE filed on 5/26/2006.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Povilus, US# 5,740,425, in view Foster et al., US# 2003/0130905.

As per claim 1, **Povilus** teaches "at least one class definition, each class definition . . . associated categories . . ." (see abstract – i.e. "defining classes of product groupings . . .") "a plurality of category definitions . . . attribute group . . ." (see col. 54, lines 46-66) "a plurality of attribute group definitions, each . . . having an associated possible value list that identifies . . ." (see col. 14, lines 57-67, whereas Povilus' teachings of "characteristics that differentiate each class . . . grouping . . .", clearly teaches group definitions having a value list that identifies values as indicated in applicant's claim language). **Povilus** does not teach "a plurality of possible value list each possible value list . . . so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing of product data . . .". **Foster** teaches "a plurality of possible value list each possible value list . . . so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing of product data . . ." (see paragraph [0024], [0033] and [0066]). It would have been obvious at the

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time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Povilus and Foster, because using the steps of “a plurality of possible value list each possible value list . . . so as to minimize potential error during inputting and storing of product data . . .” would have given those skilled in the art the ability to designate classes of product data by grouping them in regards to a data model. This gives users the advantage of processing product information according to groups more accurately.

As per claim 2, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- Povilus teaches “a plurality of possible unit lists each possible . . .” (see col. 13, lines 34-67 and col. 14, lines 1-24, whereas Povilus’ “block . . .”, is equivalent to applicant use of the term “unit”).

As per claims 3-4, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1-2 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--Povilus teach “possible value list is combined with each one . . . a normalized value” (see col. 19, lines 15-27).

As per claim 5, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- Povilus teaches attributes is associated with a data capture priority indicator that assigns priorities . . .” (see col. 14, lines 64, whereas Povilus’ inheritance of block with attributes incorporate an order or priority of attributes associated with the different

blocks, therefore teach attributes with a priority that assigns priorities as taught by the applicant above).

As per claim 6, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- **Povilus** teaches "a possible countries table specifying one or more countries that are selectable as countries for which a product is adapted for sale" (see figure 19—sheet 14 of 38 and col. 19-20, lines 57-67, and 1-30 respectively; whereas Povilus' table clearly has placeholders for variable information (i.e. countries) that are selectable with an sale element attached, as indicated by the applicant's claim language above.

As per claim 7, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1 and 6 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**Povilus** teaches "platforms that are compatible with a specific product" (see col. 19, lines 24-67).

As per claim 8, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**Povilus** teaches "a plurality of manufacturer SKUs . . . SKU system . . ." (see col. 6, lines 47-67) "a customer mapping table that maps each system SKU to a customer . . ." (see col. 22, lines 20-67).

As per claim 9, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 2-3 and are similarly rejected including the following:

As per claim 11, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- **Povilus** teaches "a category identifier associated with each one of the plurality of products . . . corresponding product" (see col. 3, lines 8-54).

As per claim 12, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- **Povilus** teaches "a manufacturer product description associated with each one of the . . . describing standard features of the associated product" (see col. 51, LINES 34-67).

As per claim 13, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- **Povilus** teaches "an image table including link to one or more images illustrating the plurality of products . . ." (see col. 26, lines 16-50).

As per claim 14, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- **Povilus** teaches "a marketing description for selected . . . products" (see col. 33, lines 55-67 and col. 34, lines 5-25).

As per claims 15-16, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1, and 6-7 and are similarly rejected.

As per claim 17, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

**--Povilus** teaches "a product compatibility table including platform compatibility . . ." (see col. 29, lines 45-67 and col. 30, lines 30-56).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

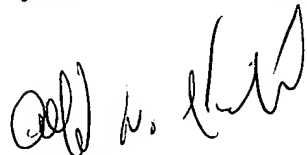
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 and 11-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 571-272-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Alford W. Kindred  
Patent Examiner  
Tech Ctr. 2100